

SOCIOLOGY | ANTHROPOLOGY | PSYCHOLOGY

Shameful Science

14th Edition

June 2023

NEW! Nose Science

Astral
Projection:
The world
inside our
head



EXCITING!!! Geertz
Describes How Gods
Are Made!!

4 SICKENING 🤢
trolley problems

And More! ->

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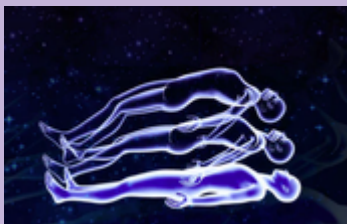
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Adventurer's Prospects to Astral Projections

David Chen | June 8 2023

Some of us ponder whether the Astral world exists. Reports of people entering the Astral Plane are plentiful. Stories of sitting on the Sun and bathing in the Bermuda Triangle. Illogical experiences that will kill a person in our temporal realm yet infinitely possible inside a spiritual realm. The conduit to this, is Astral projection. A form of meditation designed to separate the consciousness. As quantum theory has taught us, everything is in a superposition between existence and non-existence. Astral space exists only if you believe it does. We will take a deep dive into this Astral world without ever entering it ourselves. The following is a dissection of astral projection with the goal to compare evidence of its existence.



Projection Stages. (2017). Sunday Rest. Retrieved from <https://www.sundayrest.com/blogs/sunday/are-dreams-signals-from-the-higher-plane>.

Astral Projection is the act of exiting one's temporal body to achieve an out-of-body experience. Usually achieved through meditation. You leave your body behind, allowing you to travel to any place unimpeded.

Astral Sleeper. (n.d.). Enhanced. Retrieved from <https://enhancedapp.io/meditation/astral-projection-meditation-what-it-is-and-how-you-can-do-it/>.

Practical Experiments

In 1978, Ingo Swann wanted to conduct a study on the authenticity of Astral Projection. Ingo swan would Astral Projected to Jupiter, documenting what he saw. And later, when satellite images of Jupiter are taken, He would compare the accuracy of his notes. The results, were unimpressive. 37% of his notes were accurate. Yes, Jupiter had a ring, yes jupiter has a crust. Trusting the human mind is inherently flawed. Human belief, imagination and prior experiences all weigh heavily on what we perceive.



Swann, I. (n.d.). *Session Sketches*. p-i-a. Retrieved from http://p-i-a.com/Magazine/Issue21/Applications_21.htm.

Neurological Studies

The Frontiers in Human Neuroscience discovered anomalous results in the temporal and occipital lobes during the Astral Projection of one participant. With routine motor functions, we are bilateral in the use of our brain. Out-of-body experiences, would attempt to simulate motor functions, however scans show that only the left side is used. This leads to excersises being more onerous to perform during astral projection, yet somehow more monitored. Reduced vision and self awareness also occured following the lack of a physical body. Keep in mind these results occur as a byproduct of Astral Projection and are not the cause of it. We may theorize that Astral Projection occurs when the temporal lobe is disrupted, as that will sever ties to your bodily perception, however these are just theories.

Conclusion

As with many thing, we dont have a clear answer to the Astral Projection phenomenon. From the findings here, it seems Astral Projection so far is just an illusion caused shifting attributions to body control. This illusion however, is entirely possible. Even though its not founded in reality, people report a profound feeling of wellness after each session. Whether you believe in spirits or not, I'd encourage everbody to try out this incredibly unique experience.

Agnostic Anthropology!

Interview with Clifford Geertz

Robert Red | June 2 2023

I preface this by saying Clifford Geertz is a real bundle of joy. I would liken him to a hummingbird. He is a fast talker, darting around from thought to thought, biting his tongue and smiling all the while. It was 2006 when he perished, at age 80 with a legacy to his name. Known as the single most influential cultural anthropologist of these last 3 decades. We honour his ideas with a replication of himself and his greatest ideas on religion. His theories focused on symbolic meanings with deep, descriptive ethnology. The following covers an interview with Geertz concerning his essay "Religion as a Cultural System".



Geertz, C. (2006). *Clifford Geertz Red*. RaiCultura. Retrieved June 12, 2023, from <https://www.raicultura.it/filosofia/articoli/2019/01/Clifford-Geertz-il-metodo-dell'antropologia-Aforismi-6d95ecda-3bfe-42b3-b18a-3e2de55167ed.html>.

Red: *Your Essay touches upon the structure of religion in relation to ethnography. Would you be able to retell your ideas in a condensed format?*

Geertz: Yes. Religion is a symbol system which serves as a vehicle for greater moral judgement. They persuade a general order of existence with certain moods that make them seem realistic. I describe religion as 4 things.

- 1) A system of symbols that formulate notions or abstractions to represent judgement or beliefs. The cross of Christ to Christians, means a certain graceful sacrifice that guides their life.
- 2) To establish powerful, pervasive and long-lasting moods and motivations in men. It forever alters how we view the world through a new lens. If one is gay, everything and everyone seems splendid. If one is sad, everything and everyone is dim. Buddhists do not kill, they value their system of karma as their guiding light in this world.
- 3) Formulating conceptions of a general order of existence. To find reasons for why things happen. Religion finds a way to explain suffering.
- 4) Clothing these conceptions within such an aura of factuality that moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic. Religions present every performance, and every scripture as true. What happened in the bible, really happened. And one must follow these rituals to uphold balance in the world.

Red: It is argued that your theory of religion can be applied to any non-religious phenomena as well. How do you distinguish whether a system is religious or not?

Geertz: This theory in part will echo that the symbolic approach can be employed to interpret and understand cultures as a whole. My study is within cultural symbols and their meaning within social contexts so lines are crossed between social beliefs and religious beliefs. The way we shape what is religious is not dependent on any one standpoint. So far as religious activities are concerned, I write in my essay, "That learning a myth by heart is as much a religious activity as detaching one's finger at the knuckle... Though it is in the total acceptance of these beliefs to include a wider reality outside everyday life that a man becomes a worshipper." I write that a man can be said to be 'religious' about golf, but not merely if he plays it leisurely on Saturdays. he must also see it as a part of his truths. As a symbol for greater transcendent meaning. A worshipper is only a man utilizing symbols to maintain cosmic order. Another excerpt I feel is worth mentioning is that "Man can adapt himself somehow to anything his imagination can cope with, but he cannot deal with Chaos. Because his characteristic function and highest asset is conception, his greatest fright need not be a new object; we do meet new things, and 'understand' them promptly, but under mental stress even perfectly familiar things may become suddenly disorganized and give us horrors." What I've seen in a primitive society, a daily ritual is incorporated into common activities such as eating, washing, foraging, etc. Ceremonial methods to each daily action are taken to reassert the tribal morale in the face of its cosmic conditions that are constantly felt. An abridge from chaos leads to interpretations which threaten to break a man. Through our limits in power, endurance or insight, we form a religion to attempt to cope.

Red: *Do you believe in a god?*

Geertz: You ask me to validate something which cannot be seen, heard or sensed. My justifications will be limited as much as the next. I quote that "Lord Russell remarked that although the problem of the existence of God had never bothered him, the ambiguity of certain mathematical axioms had threatened to unhinge his mind. And Einstein's profound dissatisfaction with quantum mechanics was based on a--surely religious--inability to believe that, as he put it, God plays dice with the universe." But this quest for lucidity and rush of metaphysical anxiety will always lead intransigently opaque truths. To "explain" these phenomena, or rather convince themselves that the phenomena were explainable means being ready to abandon other more plausible facts. I am not ready to leave behind evidence we do not yet know exists.

Red: *You did not answer the question, Mr. Geertz.*

For further reading into Geertz's work, consult his paper "Religion as a Cultural System".

"Why can't I eat people god damn it?" Screams Jobert; a recently convicted cannibal. "How's a man like me supposed to live?" As he's hauled into the police car, the officer looks him in the eye and says: "Well, why can't you just eat yourself? Some of us rather enjoy living you know". It dawned on him that the officer may have misclassified him as a murderer instead. "I only eat the dead!" he cried. "You assume my actions take that of a killer! The man is already dead, I'm not harming him anymore so than the cause that killed him!". "There's dignity given to each person" the officer replied. "One ought to at least respect each other after life". Jobert seethed at this objection. "A corpse is not a person anymore. The guiding principles of a physical mind are now gone. It's a body without autonomy!". "It's a desecration of the body itself" The officer started. "respecting a person involves respecting the person even after that person is no longer present. You must understand this at least". Jobert did understand, yet even still he knew there was justification for his beliefs. Jobert plots out his next arguments. Something sociological, he thinks. One with a prevailing mood of ethnocentrism! "We donate our blood, our bodies and minds for research. This sense of preservation seems to run deep in your culture, as it does mine. I just so happen to fancy nutrients over knowledge, so what's intrinsically wrong about cannibalism?". The officer, found a passion within Jobert's arguments. He humoured Jobert with a retort. "You're misguided in your belief that in death, they are used. It is through consent given in life, that we can research them later on". Jobert too realized that he was having fun. It had been too long since he'd had such an argument, no less a conversation. As more retorts were thrown, Jobert grew to respect the officer that had brought him here. An event that opened his eyes to the transcendent relationship of mutual respect. The essence of a human is more than their mind, but their body, their legacy and their honour. Through this interaction, Jobert was persuaded to give up cannibalism and learned the unspoken morals that hold society.

Inspired by Wisniewski, J's *A DEFENSE OF CANNIBALISM*



An Instant



Classic!

Prank your friends with the power of classical conditioning!

1. The eugenics debate

Modern trains allow for a painless death. Tied on one track is 5 future children. Tied on the other is the parent with a genetic defect. If the train were to continue its path, 5 future children will develop a life-altering genetic defect. Diverting the track will kill the parent and in turn, kill the children, but satisfying the eugenics theory.

2. Moral Research

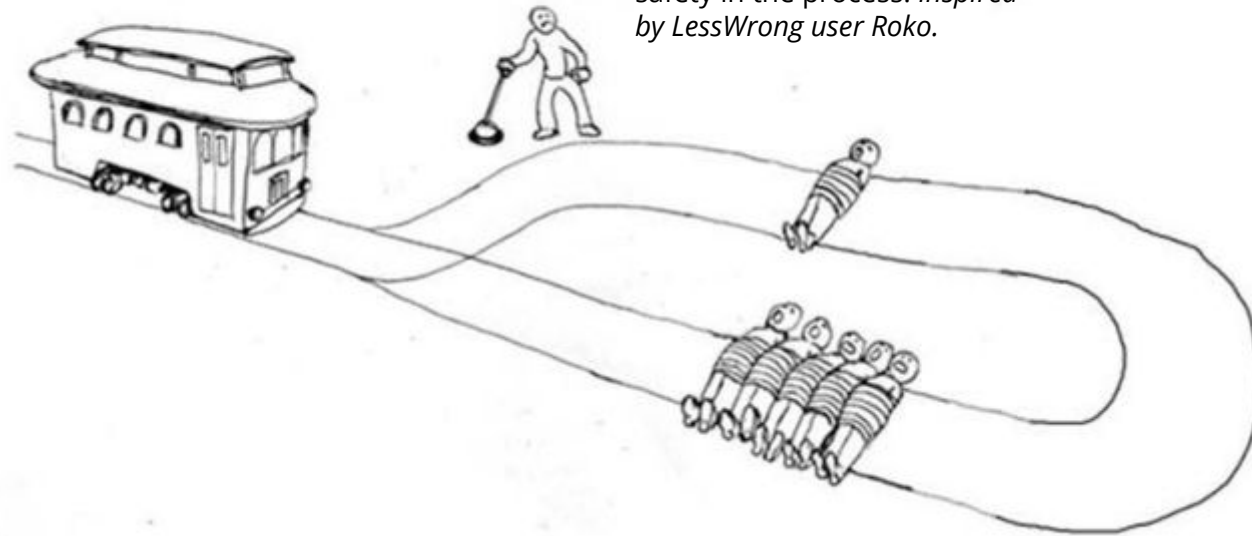
A pivotal study is about to be conducted on 5 uninformed participants. If the train were to continue down its path, the participants unwillingly partake in the experiment. Diverting the track will signal the man to yell "They are scientists! Omagod!" informing the participants of the experiment and muddying the results of the research.

3. Roko's Basilisk

Humanity is in danger! A malicious being known as the Basilisk is comping to wipe out mankind. Or so you think... The Basilisk will only exist if somebody builds it, and if somebody can, then somebody will. You can allow the trolley to take you on a nice stroll and forget about your doom. Or you can divert the lever to join the Basilisk's side. Bringing the end of humanity, but ensuring your safety in the process. *Inspired by LessWrong user Roko.*

4. Privacy vs Security

Oh no! A super evil criminal has escaped! They are going to sell heroin on the streets again! Diverting the track will activate a highly invasive surveillance technology tracking every citizen, infringing on the privacy of innocent people. Letting the train run will keep every citizen anonymous, but will also allow them to buy heroin.



Bizarro, S. (2020). *Trolley problem*. Medium. Retrieved June 13, 2023, from <https://sarabizarro.medium.com/the-trolley-problem-73e22048d88e>.

In pursuit of a sizeable schnoz

Bloer Kneuse | June 9 2023



Miura, K. (2003). *Chimimoryo*. Retrieved June 13, 2023, from <https://readberserk.com/chapter/berserk-chapter-215/>.

Who wouldn't want a bombastically big nose? Being in the centre of your face, your smellier is the first thing people notice. If you've got a particularly big one, you'll stay in people's heads. If you've got confidence to back it up, then a schnozz of size is one of the greatest boons you can have. If you're like me, then you might be interested in where this size comes from. Follow along to view the anthropological influences that affect nose size.

Climate



Walton, L. E. (2012). *Types of noses*. *The Biologist*. Retrieved June 13, 2023, from <http://thesymbiont.blogspot.com/2012/01/nose-hairs-in-humans-idle-evolutionary.html>.

Cartilage arcs depend on the climate your ancestors lived in. Your nose is the ventilation system of your body. its the passage to where air adjusts temperature before entering the lungs. CNN interviews British anthropologist Arthur Thomson who observed that shorter, wider noses occur more in hot, humid areas while thinner, longer noses occurred in more cold, dry areas.

Natural Selection

Apes have flat noses, Neanderthals have round noses, we have sharp noses. Over skull studies in our ancestors, our noses began to show shrinkage over the years. Our genes inherit from the Neanderthals living in cold climates, so called ice dwellers.



Kaustubh, A. (2023). *Modern human and archaic Neanderthal skulls side by side showing difference in nasal height*. UCL. Retrieved June 13, 2023, from <https://neurosciencenews.com/genetics-evolution-nose-23188/>.

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